1 THE COURT: This is Judge Ramos. Good morning, 2 everyone. (Case called) 3 4 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Counsel, please state your name for 5 the record. MR. FOLLY: Good morning, your Honor. This is 6 7 Nicholas Folly speaking. We have Nicholas Folly, Christopher 8 DiMase, and Julieta Lozano for the United States. And we also 9 have Special Agent Ronald Shimko of the FBI who is also on the 10 phone. MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: This is Arlo Devlin-Brown for 11 Mr. Scott. And I'm joined by David Garvin, also for Mr. Scott. 12 13 And Katri Stanley from Covington is also on the line. 14 THE COURT: Mr. Devlin-Brown, do you want to make a 15 representation concerning Mr. Scott's appearance? 16 MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: I do, your Honor. In light of his 17 current situation of incarceration in Florida, we've waived his 18 appearance for today. 19 THE COURT: Who else is on? Anyone from pretrial or 20 probation? 21 MR. MOSCATO: Yes, your Honor. This is John Moscato 22 from U.S. Pretrial Services. 2.3 THE COURT: And I take the other participants are 24 members of the Fourth Estate. Okay.

25

Mr. Devlin-Brown, this is your application. I'll hear

1 you.

2.3

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: Thank you, your Honor.

I want to start with the notion that the government has put forward in its filings and actually, Judge, put forward in similar language in other cases they've recently filed in this district that the Bureau of Prisons is "prepared to handle the risk."

I just think that's facially absurd. No one is prepared to handle the risks of this upcoming and ongoing pandemic. Certainly the public health system and private health system in New York City and across the country is being strained, and the idea that the Bureau of Prisons is going to provided adequate care or be able to resist the devastating impact of the spread of this disease because they have a policy manual they created some years ago — it just doesn't pass the straight-face test.

This is the same Bureau of Prisons that couldn't get the heat to work for weeks at a time in the freezing winter last year. MCC has its own issues. It's been on lockdown.

The decision that your Honor makes is going to have consequences because this disease is going to spread within the Bureau of Prisons. It already has. These are close quarters.

Unless the staff of the Bureau of Prisons is going to be prevented from returning home, they're going to bring it into the prison system. Even to the extent that the

Bureau of Prisons is able to address it, it's already posing really severe problems on our ability to communicate with our client. And I'm sure it's going to for other lawyers as well.

The FDC in Miami has just gone on to a 24-hour lockdown. They've been on a modified lockdown until recently. There are no legal visits. Legal calls are hard to arrange. And we have a lot of work to do of course to prepare for sentencing, as well as the Rule 29 reply.

To step back a second, your Honor, the fact that the Bureau of Prisons isn't really prepared to handle COVID doesn't provide recourse to all defendants. It's not a get-out-of-jail-free card.

The vast majority of defendants in the prison system have been sentenced already by the courts. There is no real remedy, short of compassionate release or other programs, to assist those inmates.

But this is a different case. This is an inmate who is only there because his bail was canceled and because he's waiting for sentencing. This is a place where the Court can make a difference.

And I think the analysis really is sort of straightforward. What damage will incarcerating Mr. Scott have on his health, number one, measured against what the risk of flight is.

Let me take both of those briefly, your Honor. Not to

repeat the arguments in our letters, but on flight risk, I would submit there really is no flight risk. He has consistently appeared in court every time he's been directed to, including surrendering when your Honor directed him to surrender to authorities in Miami.

And the government's arguments about his use of access, which we can get into, and there are responses we have to some of the things they say and the like. But I think those arguments are in a lot of ways besides the point at a time like this.

They might have had more weight before. But at a time like this, really you look at those arguments with respect to whether they suggest that Mark Scott is not going to obey a court order to surrender to prison if he's sentenced to prison ultimately, and they just don't suggest that at all.

I think the best example, your Honor, is someone who is looking to flee does not, like Mr. Scott did, transfer \$300,000 from a Cayman Islands bank account to the U.S. to protect real property in the U.S. that the government is seeking to seize.

One can quibble, and the government has some valid criticisms to some extent about these assets. But there's nothing about his use of these assets that poses a risk of flight.

And posting a lien on his home is more than adequate

security to make up for the loss of the \$750,000 that Marietta Halle, his former business partner and friend, has had returned to her.

There is at least \$600,000 in equity above and beyond what the government alleges is linked to OneCoin. So that's substantial. But I think it's a weightier asset in a lot of ways, your Honor, because Mr. Scott's wife and child live there.

The government may say they would forfeit it anyway and try to collect a million dollars from it. But in Florida in particular, it's very difficult to forfeit property where there's a spouse who lives there. And this would make a real difference with Mr. Scott's wife signing away her interest in this property to the extent that Mr. Scott should flee.

She'd also surrender her passport by the way. So that's flight, and I don't really think you have any significant flight risk. Then you measure it against the health risk. These are very serious risks.

Your Honor, one thing we got recently and forwarded to you this morning was Bureau of Prisons data. That confirms that Mr. Scott does have a heart condition. Actually, it's a heart condition that hadn't been diagnosed before, atrial fibrillation, and he needs more work done on that and further evaluation.

To the extent the government is quibbling that his own

doctor letters are rather brief, these are letters from a practicing physician who was treating him, not a paid expert who can write lengthy letters.

To the extent they're not more fulsome, that's because the diagnostic testing that Mr. Scott was going to undergo was scheduled to occur and then he was sent to prison. So there is no question that he is a high-risk patient.

There's new data from WHO suggesting that cardiac patients with underlying cardiac conditions are at a significantly higher risk than the average population for suffering complications from this disease.

Your Honor, I'm happy to answer any of the Court's questions. And I'd like to respond, to the extent there are new points raised by the government.

But I think this really is a point where you can balance risk of flight, which is minimal, to the damage to his health that continuing incarceration will do right now. And we submit that your Honor should release him on bail. He can get the medical workup he needs.

And then if and when your Honor does sentence him to time in prison, hopefully it will be a time when this pandemic has passed and he'll be able to go to a facility that's able to treat him. That's all the defense is asking for here.

THE COURT: Mr. Folly or Mr. DiMase.

MR. FOLLY: Thank you, your Honor. This is Nicholas

1 Folly.

2.3

Mr. Scott's actions throughout this case leave no doubt that if he is released on bail, he's going to continue to disregard court orders. He's going to continue to commit crimes. That's what he's done. His actions — the proof is in the pudding as they say.

He's altering on this risk of flight. So I just want to address those issues and also respond to some of the things that Mr. Devlin-Brown just said.

Just for context, as we all know, this is a lawyer. Mr. Scott is a lawyer. He got charged for laundering \$400 million. \$50 million of that money went straight into his pocket. He lied to federal agents when he was arrested.

And then after all of that -- after being charged, after being brought to court, after being in jail for a brief period of time -- he continued to commit serious federal felonies while on bail. That's undisputed.

These arguments that the defense is making are now about the court and about money. \$300,000 was used by Scott to renovate his property. These are not arguments suggesting that he did not do those things. They are arguments that are attempting to justify why he did them.

The bottom line is he used in excess of \$500,000 of OneCoin proceeds that were subject to multiple court orders while on bail for whatever he chose to use them for. Those are

1 | serious crimes.

2.3

He can get charged based on the evidence that the government showed at trial showing that he knew that this money was directly derived from the OneCoin fraud scheme. He could get charged separately for these crimes.

These aren't violations of the bail conditions in which he went to the store to get some milk without permission. These are serious offenses he committed while being subject to his bail conditions.

And then he got convicted at trial and continued to use assets under the forfeiture without any regard to the orders of this Court, for example, mortgaging properties, the Vale Avenue property that was subject to forfeiture.

So his actions show this is a defendant who is going to manipulate the system, violate the rule of law, lie to federal agents, defy court orders pertaining to seized assets, all in order to benefit himself and to avoid the consequences of his actions in this case.

Scott even made false promises to his own suretor and induced her to pay another \$500,000 on top of the \$750,000 that Scott had received from her to secure his fund which started this case.

And it's telling that his own close friend, who was his suretor who once had total trust in Scott and who was willing to front him \$750,000, now has no confidence in him.

2.3

She has no confidence that he will return to court and show up and is no longer willing to stand by that bond.

Your Honor, as a result of that, rightfully released her from that obligation.

It's also telling that that same woman believes she was ripped off by Scott for an additional \$500,000 and has just been told repeated lies by Scott about the money that Scott owes her.

Then you have on top of that the fact that Scott is a dual citizen of Germany. He has access to offshore financial accounts. There is no question that he's an enormous flight risk.

The moment he decides that he is better served by fleeing than continuing to remain in the United States and plead his case, the evidence suggests that he will do exactly that. There is no reason for him not to.

He's been convicted of two extremely serious crimes. He faces a guideline sentence of 50 years. He's in the process of being disbarred. His reputation has been tarnished. So the moment he decides he's better off living the rest of his life in Germany where he doesn't face an enormous sentence, he's going to do that.

And now he's also been in jail and seen what that's like, again, at the beginning of this case up until now. So that simply adds to the risk of flight. It does not mitigate

1 | the risk of flight.

So it's not simply risk of flight. It's also financial danger. I also articulated that. That's one of the grounds that your Honor found when we had the original bail hearing is that he poses both a financial danger to the community through his willingness to dissipate assets subject to court orders and also an enormous risk of flight.

The final point on that is that it's totally inappropriate for Scott to try to use property that was paid off primarily with OneCoin fraud proceeds as security for his loan. This is property that is subject to forfeiture.

Frankly, all of Scott's personal property is subject to forfeiture as substitute assets. Given that he laundered \$400 million as the government clearly showed at trial, that is the amount of money that is going to be subject to forfeiture, and that's by statute and also under clear Second Circuit precedent.

So any of these personal assets, whether or not they were purchased entirely with OneCoin fraud proceeds, would still be subject to forfeiture as substitute assets.

So the notion that Mr. Scott should be allowed to use a property that is the subject of forfeiture as the security for his bond is totally inappropriate. That would not address any risk of flight. That is essentially letting him put up OneCoin victim proceeds as security for his bond which is

totally inappropriate.

2.3

The last point, your Honor, is all of this obviously has to be weighed against the situation with COVID-19 and Scott's health. And that's where the real issue is because obviously we're not in a position -- we cannot let every defendant out of jail. Each case must be taken in turn. And the question is whether Scott should be let out and on what record he should be let out on.

What we have in front of us are two doctors' letters, his primary care physician, that have limited explanation about much of anything. They state that Scott has some serious health issues.

They provide no explanation of whether there are specific risks that cannot be addressed by the BOP while Scott is incarcerated. They include no specific explanation of why Scott is high risk.

A couple of sentences in a doctor's note from a primary care physician is simply not an adequate showing for the extraordinary relief that Scott is asking for which is to be let out on bail with essentially no security, despite the fact that he has committed serious felonies while on bail, despite the fact that he is an enormous flight risk.

So for all of those reasons, the motion for reconsideration should be denied.

THE COURT: Mr. Devlin-Brown, do you wish to add

anything? Mr. Devlin-Brown?

2.3

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: Sorry, your Honor. I just wanted to briefly address a couple points that Mr. Folly made.

Mr. Folly has said repeatedly that Mr. Scott violated multiple court orders by using these assets. I think he's, again, overstated what's gone on here.

Let me talk specifically about his reference to the Vale Avenue property that Mr. Scott issued a mortgage on for 200 something thousand dollars to the contractor who, on his own, completed work on the property to prevent it from being damaged in the middle of construction. So there were not multiple court orders with respect to that property. In fact, there were no court orders.

I still haven't heard from the government why they did not include that property in a post-indictment restraining order as they did with numerous other assets that they wanted to put Mr. Scott on notice of that he could not have any access to. They did not do that with the Vale Avenue property.

And that action Mr. Scott took -- again, would it have been a better practice to consult the government to try to protect that asset? Yes. But what he did there does not suggest a risk of flight, and it does not pose losses to OneCoin victims.

The contractor who did the work noted the property was purchased for approximately \$3 million and is worth now

approximately \$5 million. There were specific numbers he referenced. But essentially it's increased by \$2 million thanks to the efforts the contractor made to complete the property.

A couple of other things to address, your Honor.

Again, there's a reference to a supposed fraud on Marietta

Halle. I want to make a couple points there. First of all,

she was not a signer of the bond. The bond was signed by two

financially responsible persons. She simply put up \$750,000 of

her own money.

THE COURT: You say that like it's nothing. She put up \$750,000 of her own money.

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: It's not nothing, your Honor. It's not nothing at all. But what it means in terms of what would need to be done to make the bond whole again -- it's not that there needs to be new signers. It's that there's something that needs to replace the security there.

What went wrong between Mr. Scott and Ms. Halle is very complicated. They were business partners, but again the government repeats that Mr. Scott repeatedly told her lies about money owed. And there's just no evidence of that.

This \$500,000 was borrowed not so he could send it offshore to run away but to pay for legal fees. And he provided explanations when he made that arrangement with Ms. Halle as to what sources of funds he hoped to have to pay

her back. The government hasn't shown any evidence that these were fraudulent statements or untrue at the time.

So I don't think the Court can really take anything away from the interactions with Ms. Halle, other than that she's no longer willing to put up the cash and therefore we should look at what other security could substitute for it.

Again, I think the government is overstating the challenges with putting up his house that he and his wife jointly own that was purchased, by the way, before his involvement with OneCoin, and it has equity in it independent of OneCoin.

The government's position that Mr. Scott can't use any substitute assets either would make him unable to have funds to live on or to do anything in terms of posting a bond, and that's just not the law. The assets that they've identified as proceeds of an offense — they can put restraints on those, but substitute assets they cannot.

Just the last point, your Honor, which I think is important, is the risk of flight to Germany. Your Honor, Mr. Scott was born in Germany and grew up there as a kid. His whole life is here in the United States.

Could he somehow, even though it's really hard to travel these days, somehow magically get to Germany with no passport bringing his wife and child or abandoning them forever?

You can never say, your Honor, there's no risk of anything. But I submit that the risk of that, based on everything we've seen from Mr. Scott, including his commitment to fighting this case through the legal system and his willingness to self-surrender when your Honor ordered it before, that the risk of him disappearing to Germany is much less than the risk of him suffering serious health complications because he's in pretrial detention where he doesn't need to be before he's sentenced. That's the balance your Honor has to strike, and I think the answer is that he should be released.

I just want to give Mr. Garvin an opportunity, since we're not together, in case I've missed anything, if that's all right with your Honor.

THE COURT: Sure.

Mr. Garvin.

2.3

MR. GARVIN: Thank you, your Honor. Good morning.

Your Honor, there are only a few minor items I'd like to touch upon.

The first is that through CorrLinks, Mark Scott had very limited ability to communicate with Mr. Arlo Brown and myself. And in those communications, he has told us that he still has not received medicines that he requested for controlling his blood pressure and, in addition, that the guards now, to protect the guards from getting the virus, have

1 gone to a skeleton staff.

So in addition to a complete lockdown where they're only allowed out of their cells during meals — the meal-time threat of spread is there anyway. Part of the reason why they've gone to a complete lockdown is to enable the Bureau of Prisons to go to a skeleton staff to decrease the risk to the guards.

Shifting to the condo, Mr. Folly argued that there is no equity that can be used in the condo by Mr. Scott. I don't believe that is accurate because when the government is talking about substitute assets, those assets, the substitute amount, becomes vested at the time of conviction.

In this particular case, that condo was purchased prior to the case being commenced. In the state of Florida where there is tenants by the entireties, it is further complicated.

Even without that complication, Lydia Scott, Mark Scott's wife, has a claim for 50 percent of the equity in that home. And that is the equity that we seek to use to replace Marietta Halle's \$750,000 that she posted.

I don't believe that it is something that can be prohibited by the government's claim for substitute assets.

And I do believe the case law is Second Circuit case law that establishes that.

So for those reasons, your Honor, I do believe that

this really is a situation of risk of flight versus risk of health. In Mr. Scott's condition with his heart condition and all of the other factors and the heart condition being confirmed by the medical staff at the FDC, if Mr. Scott is unfortunate enough to contract the COVID virus at this stage, it will not be simply a matter of being ill for a period of time. It is highly likely that it will be life threatening.

Now the question then becomes if we came back here 30 days from now and we said unfortunately Mr. Scott has come down with the COVID virus, with the benefit of hindsight, what would we have done differently. And I think the answer would be resoundingly we should have let him go home under an order that he's not to leave his premises when we had the opportunity.

Judge, this is a case where everyone wishes that we would have taken this thing more seriously eight weeks ago and had taken steps then that would have saved lives today. I just would implore the Court not to throw Mark Scott on that pile. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, all.

First of all, I just want to note that I believe that Mr. Scott richly earned his admission into federal custody. I find that the various excuses/explanations that are provided concerning his use of assets which he knew or should have known were subject to forfeiture, especially being the very sophisticated lawyer that he is, just ring very, very hollow.

2.3

I thought it was important that Ms. Halle, despite the fact that she was not a signatory on the bond, that she provided \$750,000, which was a very important part of why he was released in the first place.

I do find it important that she lost confidence in Mr. Scott for reasons sufficient to herself. She knows him better than any of us do. I had no difficulty finding that he should have been incarcerated the last time we were together.

Things have changed. A very important part of that is the fact that all of us are sitting by ourselves in various offices, even as we have this conference concerning Mr. Scott.

The COVID-19 is now in the various federal facilities, including the ones in New York. Mr. Scott is a sick man. I don't doubt the fact, given his respiratory issues with sleep apnea and atrial fibrillation, that he is a seek individual and at greater risk of becoming seriously ill if he were to contract the virus, not to mention his age.

And notwithstanding I'm sure the very valiant efforts of the Bureau of Prisons, there's only so much social distancing that one can do while in prison. So that does fundamentally alter the calculus of whether one is in custody or not.

And I find on balance, that Mr. Scott ought to be released on home incarceration, at least for a period of 60 days. And we can re-examine where we are then because of his

heightened risk of serious medical complications if he were to contract the virus.

So I will release him to 24-hour home incarceration and using the guidance that's been provided by our probation and pretrial services officers. That will be enforced by location monitoring technology as determined by pretrial services, and he may only leave his home for necessary medical services.

All other leave from the residence must be submitted through defense counsel for the Court's approval. He shall be permitted to self-install the monitoring equipment under the direction and instruction of pretrial services. He shall not be released until all conditions are met, including the availability of location monitoring equipment.

This order shall be effective for a period not to exceed 60 days, at which time the need for continued release under the compelling reason that release was ordered shall be revisited by the Court.

Within two weeks of his release, he must purchase or secure an iPhone with FaceTime capabilities for remote or virtual monitoring by pretrial services.

When home visits are scheduled by pretrial services, to the best of his ability, Mr. Scott shall comply with pretrial services requests to remove all cohabitants of the residents prior to the visit.

2.3

And Mr. Scott must report and disclose to pretrial services when any cohabitant of the residence, including himself, may be symptomatic of any illness.

I will require that Mrs. Scott also submit her passport to pretrial services.

I will ask the government. Do you want him to put up the Coral Gables apartment?

MR. FOLLY: Your Honor, I think we would ask that it be put up.

THE COURT: Very well. The apartment will be put up.
Mr. Garvin, how long will that take?

MR. GARVIN: Your Honor, I think that we might be able to accomplish that in 48 hours. Because everybody is working remotely, we have to prepare a mortgage in favor of the government. I'm not a real estate attorney. So I'll have to seek guidance on that.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: This is Mr. Devlin-Brown. I think, given all the uncertainties, we might want more than 48 hours, or I think we'll probably be back here in 48 hours. I also would like clarification from the Court.

When you say "put up the property," does that mean a mortgage in the amount of \$750,000?

Is the Court ordering the mortgage to be in a higher amount?

1 Whatever the case is, we just want to get it right.

THE COURT: Well, right now what's the cash bail that was in place before he was remanded?

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: \$750,000.

2.3

THE COURT: What was the total amount? \$750,000 to secure it.

But what was the total amount?

MR. DEVLIN-BROWN: I believe it was \$2.5 million, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Then the apartment should be put up to secure the \$2.5 million. I'm not going to require that that be done before he's released. So he can be released when the other conditions are met, but I will direct counsel to post that property as soon as possible.

MR. GARVIN: Your Honor, if I may interject. In lieu of doing a mortgage, given the Court's ruling, it may be simpler just to do a deed made out to the United States government that can be recorded in the event that he breaches any condition.

MR. DiMASE: Your Honor, it's Chris DiMase. Actually, I think that's the only way it can be done, in light of the restrictions on the use of primary residences in Florida. I actually dealt with this very issue in another case.

So the only way to do it is to execute a mortgage deed in the government's favor that can be filed at some point down

2.3

the road. Florida is not going to allow a lien or another encumbrance on the primary residence.

MR. GARVIN: I don't think you meant to say "mortgage deed." I apologize for interrupting you here, Chris. I think it would be in the form of either a warranty deed or a quitclaim deed, not a mortgage. There is no other lien that can be placed on that.

MR. DiMASE: I think it can only be up to the value of the property itself. So I think if it's \$1.6 million, it could probably only be \$1.6 million as opposed to \$2.5 million, although Mr. Garvin may have some other understanding.

MR. GARVIN: Yes. What I'm saying is that there is no prohibition to a husband and wife selling their property for any price that they want, even a dollar.

So what I would propose is that we would have a warranty deed that would be made out to the United States signed by both the husband and the wife, and then that document would be simply recorded if there was any violation of the bond.

You wouldn't have to go through a mortgage and then a foreclosure and all of that. You simply record the deed, and the deed would be in the possession of the government.

THE COURT: Very well. Any questions?

MR. GARVIN: No, sir. Not from Mr. Scott's side.

MR. DiMASE: No, your Honor.